

COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM

Social Sciences and History

Description of the Examination

The General Examination in Social Sciences and History covers a wide range of topics from the social science and history areas. While the exam is based on no specific course, its content is drawn from introductory college courses that cover United States history, Western Civilization, World Civilization, government/political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and geography.

The primary objective of the exam is to give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate that they possess the level of knowledge and understanding expected of college students meeting a distribution or general education requirement in the social science/history area. Many colleges award three or six semester hours (or the equivalent) for a satisfactory CLEP score reflecting the required level of knowledge and understanding. Some may grant specific course credit for a survey course that discusses social science and history topics and that closely matches the exam.

This exam, however, is not intended for use in granting course credit for specific social science or history courses. The CLEP Subject Examinations in Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics, Introductory Sociology, American History I and II, Western Civilization I and II, and American Government cover more completely the material taught in these courses.

The Social Sciences and History exam includes approximately 125 multiple-choice questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Familiarity with terminology, facts, conventions, methodology, concepts, principles, generalizations, and theories
- Ability to understand, interpret, and analyze graphic, pictorial, or written material
- Ability to apply abstractions to particulars, and to apply hypotheses, concepts, theories, or principles to given data

The content of the Social Science and History exam is drawn from the following topics.

▼	<i>Approximate Percent of Examination</i>
History (40%)	
17%	United States history Requires a general understanding of historical issues associated with the following periods in United States history: colonial, revolutionary, late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Civil War and Reconstruction, and late nineteenth and twentieth centuries
15%	Western Civilization Requires familiarity with three broad historical periods: ancient, medieval, and modern
8%	World Civilization Requires general knowledge of important historical topics in six broad chronological periods: Prehistory Ancient history to 500 B.C.E. 500 B.C.E. to 500 C.E. 500 C.E. to 1500 C.E. 1500 C.E. to 1900 C.E. The twentieth century in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America
Social Sciences (60%)	
13%	Government/Political Science, including topics such as Methods Constitutional government Voting and political behavior International relations Comparative government

➡	<i>Approximate Percent of Examination</i>
11%	Sociology, including topics such as Methods Demography Ecology Social stratification Deviance Social organization Interaction Social change
10%	Economics, with emphasis on topics such as Opportunity cost Comparative advantage Competitive markets Monetary and fiscal policy International trade Measurement concepts
10%	Psychology, including topics such as Aggression Socialization Conformity Methodology Group formation Performance
10%	Geography, including topics such as Weather and climate Cultural geography Ecology

- 6% Anthropology, including topics such as
- Cultural anthropology
 - Physical anthropology
 - Demography
 - Family
 - Methods

Sample Questions

The following questions are provided to give an indication of the types of items that appear on the General Examination in Social Sciences and History. CLEP exams are designed so that average students who have completed distribution requirements in this area can usually answer about half the questions correctly.

Before attempting to answer the sample questions, read all the information about the Social Science and History exam on the preceding pages. Additional suggestions for preparing for CLEP exams are provided in Chapter 1.

Try to answer correctly as many questions as possible. Then compare your answers with the correct answers given at the end of this examination guide.

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. Prior to the campaign of 1828, most candidates for President of the United States were nominated by
- (A) state legislatures
 - (B) the electoral college
 - (C) national party conventions
 - (D) state primary elections
 - (E) party leaders in Congress
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

2. Which of the following best describes the impact of Spanish colonization on the Indians of Central and South America in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries?

- (A) Their economic well-being was improved by the wealth they produced at the direction of the Spanish rulers.
- (B) The Indians maintained a separate society and culture that coexisted with that of the Spanish colonial system.
- (C) Their high level of artistic and scientific development put them at the top of the colonial class system.
- (D) Their system of religious beliefs and practices was unaffected.
- (E) Their populations decreased dramatically as a result of contact with the Spanish.

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

3. An individual who believes that “government is best which governs not at all” favors

- (A) anarchy (B) tyranny (C) monarchy
- (D) oligarchy (E) democracy

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

4. Which of the following statements concerning the process of socialization is true?

- (A) In the upbringing of a child, the agencies of socialization tend to function together harmoniously.
- (B) In a modern society, the individual is subjected to many diverse socializing influences.
- (C) In a traditional society, socializing influences are likely to be in conflict.
- (D) In a traditional society, there are no socializing agencies.
- (E) In modern society, the media has little impact on the socialization of children.

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

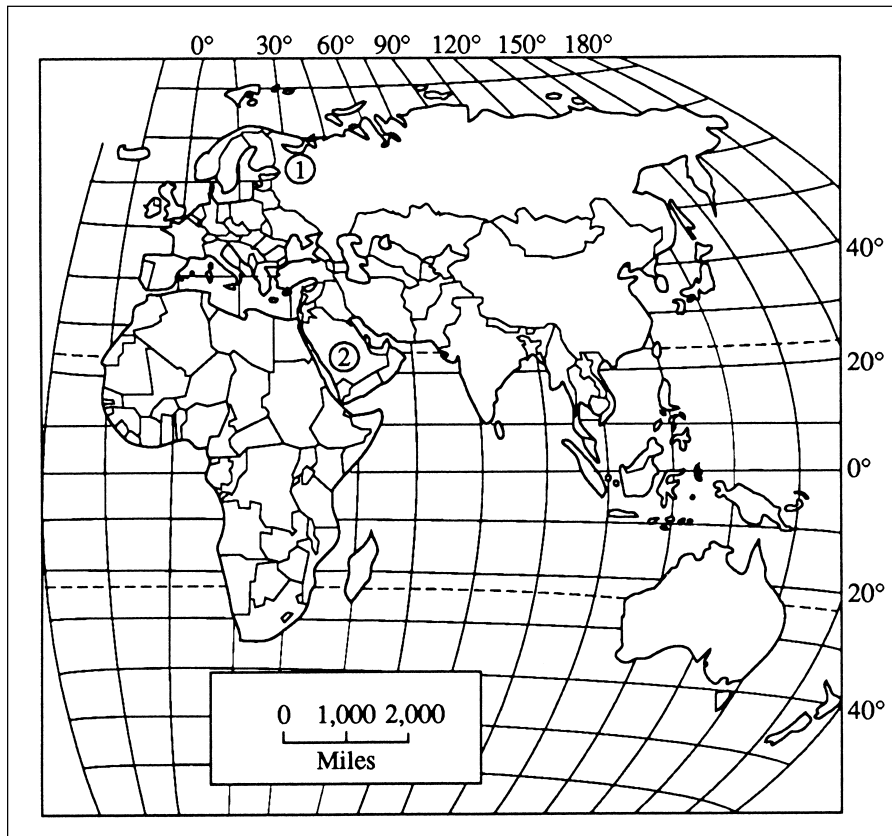
CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, 1973-1986
(Percentage saying “a great deal or quite a lot”)

ORGANIZATION	1973	1977	1981	1986
Military	NA*	57%	50%	63%
Church-organized religion	66%	64%	64%	57%
U.S. Supreme Court	44%	46%	46%	53%
Public Schools	58%	54%	42%	49%
Congress	42%	40%	29%	41%
Organized labor	30%	39%	28%	29%
Big Business	28%	26%	33%	20%

*Not asked

The Gallup Poll News Service

5. Which of the following can be inferred about American public opinion from the table above?
- (A) In the 1980’s public schools functioned to the satisfaction of American citizens.
 - (B) Big business generally enjoys more confidence than organized labor.
 - (C) Confidence in the military has remained constant over time.
 - (D) During the Reagan presidency, esteem for the Supreme Court increased.
 - (E) Support for Congress depends on the popularity of individual members of Congress.
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
6. Which of the following statements about the concept of charisma is correct?
- (A) It is possible only in the absence of legitimate authority.
 - (B) It involves a basically political appeal.
 - (C) It rests on devotion of followers to the exceptional qualities of an individual.
 - (D) It is an inherited personality trait.
 - (E) It is a prerequisite for high office in traditional societies.
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)



7. A traveler going from Nation 1 to Nation 2, shown on the map above, would experience a climatic change from
- (A) humid cold to desert
 - (B) humid subtropical to Mediterranean
 - (C) desert to tropical rain forest
 - (D) tropical wet and humid to Mediterranean
 - (E) Mediterranean to humid cold
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
8. In most cultures where a belief in ancestral spirits exists, these beings are generally seen as
- (A) being primarily malevolent
 - (B) being responsible for natural disasters
 - (C) having no authority over the living
 - (D) being beyond the spiritual reach of the living
 - (E) retaining an active membership in the society
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

9. "To industry and frugality I owe the early easiness of my circumstances and the acquisition of my fortune with all that knowledge that has enabled me to be a useful citizen."

The statement above is most characteristic of which of the following?

- (A) Franklin (B) Emerson (C) Thoreau
(D) Vanderbilt (E) Jefferson

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

10. One of the fundamental changes taking place in the twentieth century is the gradual

- (A) decline in nationalistic feelings among peoples of the Eastern Hemisphere
(B) decline in the economic self-sufficiency of individuals
(C) decline in world trade
(D) decrease in the pressure of world population on economic resources
(E) decrease in services, as opposed to manufacturing, in developed nations

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

11. A person who lived in the 1790's in the United States and who believed in a strong central government, broad construction of the Constitution, and funding of the public debt would most probably have been

- (A) a socialist (B) an anti-Federalist (C) a Federalist
(D) a believer in monarchy (E) a Jeffersonian Republican

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

12. Among the several social science methods of research, the one used for conducting public opinion polls can best be described as

- (A) laboratory experimentation
(B) participant observation
(C) field experimentation
(D) survey research
(E) computer simulation

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

13. Which of the following policies is likely to result in the greatest reduction in aggregate demand?

- (A) A \$5 billion increase in personal income taxes
- (B) A \$5 billion decrease in government transfer payments
- (C) A \$5 billion decrease in government purchases of goods and services
- (D) A \$5 billion decrease in government purchases accompanied by a \$5 billion increase in personal income taxes
- (E) A \$5 billion decrease in government purchases accompanied by a \$5 billion decrease in personal income taxes

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

14. Which of the following statements about the control group in a well-designed experiment is correct?

- (A) It differs from the experimental group in the way in which subjects are sampled.
- (B) It is like the experimental group except for differences in exposure to the dependent variable.
- (C) It is like the experimental group and receives the same experimental treatment.
- (D) It is like the experimental group except for differences in exposure to the independent variable.
- (E) It must contain the same number of individuals as the experimental group.

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

15. The area of the African continent is approximately

- (A) half the area of Western Europe
- (B) the same as the area of the United States east of the Mississippi River
- (C) three times the area of the continental United States
- (D) two times the area of California
- (E) four times the area of South America

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

16. Chinese culture and influence were most significant in shaping the institutions of which of the following countries?
- (A) Bangladesh, Burma, and Pakistan
 - (B) India, Japan, and Korea
 - (C) Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand
 - (D) Japan, Korea, and Vietnam
 - (E) Korea, Nepal, and the Philippines
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
17. The most immediate consequence of abolitionism in the United States in the 1830's and 1840's was
- (A) widespread support for the abolition of slavery
 - (B) intensified resentment toward the movement by slaveholders
 - (C) better treatment of freed African Americans in the North
 - (D) greater sympathy for popular sovereignty
 - (E) increased interest in African colonization
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
18. "We know so little about how to live in this life that there is no point in worrying about what may happen to us after death. First let us learn to live in the right way with other people and then let whatever happens next take care of itself."
- The above quotation best expresses the philosophy of
- (A) Jesus
 - (B) Muhammad
 - (C) Confucius
 - (D) Marx
 - (E) Aquinas
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
19. Major political revolutions in the twentieth century have most often occurred in countries with
- (A) comparatively low unemployment
 - (B) high levels of industrialization
 - (C) small industrial and large agricultural sectors
 - (D) representative governments
 - (E) small populations
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

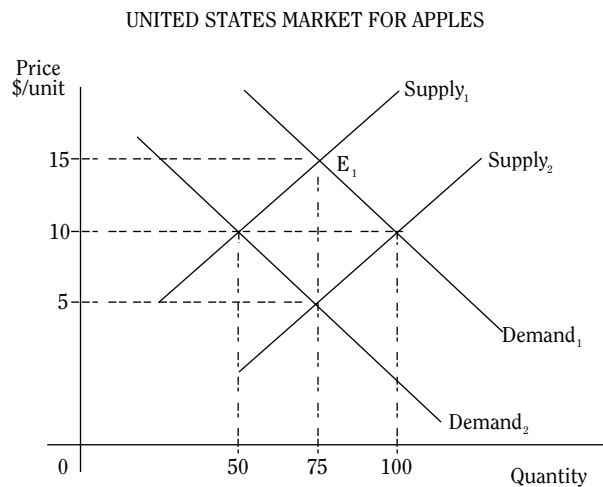
20. The tendency for an individual's rank on one status dimension to be positively correlated with his or her rank on other status dimensions is known as
- (A) structural balance
 - (B) rank ordering
 - (C) status polarization
 - (D) status congruence
 - (E) status stability
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
21. To reduce inflationary pressure in the economy, the Federal Reserve would most likely
- (A) sell government securities on the open market
 - (B) reduce margin requirements
 - (C) lower legal reserve requirements
 - (D) decrease the discount rate
 - (E) encourage member banks to increase their loans
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
22. Participant satisfaction will increase in those groups that
- (A) have competing subgroups in interaction
 - (B) are low in cohesion among group members
 - (C) identify clear goals and supportive roles
 - (D) have incompatible directions
 - (E) fail to coordinate member interaction
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
23. The construction of the Panama Canal shortened the sailing time between New York and
- (A) London
 - (B) Port-au-Prince
 - (C) Rio de Janeiro
 - (D) New Orleans
 - (E) San Francisco
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

24. Of the following, which is the earliest human innovation?
- (A) Development of complex urban societies
 - (B) Extensive use of written language
 - (C) Use and control of fire
 - (D) Domestication of animals
 - (E) Dependence on agriculture for the major source of food
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
25. Which of the following prompted African Americans to move to cities in the North during the first quarter of the twentieth century?
- I. The impact of the boll weevil plague
 - II. The availability of industrial opportunities in the North
 - III. The impact of segregation legislation in the South
- (A) II only (B) I and II only (C) I and III only
(D) II and III only (E) I, II, and III
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
26. Abolition of the transatlantic slave trade was difficult to achieve in the early 1800's because
- (A) the British were strongly in favor of slavery
 - (B) slave labor was needed in Europe
 - (C) the profits from slavery were high
 - (D) most countries in Europe had extensive African colonies
 - (E) slavery was widespread in all parts of the New World
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
27. Public opinion polls in the United States commonly make use of
- (A) sampling theory
 - (B) population trends
 - (C) intelligence tests
 - (D) clinical interviews
 - (E) Rorschach tests
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

28. A population that is aging necessarily has

- (A) more people over 40 than under 40
- (B) more males than females
- (C) a decreasing death rate
- (D) an increasing mean age
- (E) an increasing birthrate

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)



29. The United States market for apples is in equilibrium at E, where 75 units are sold for \$15 each. If consumers' per capita disposable income decreases, the equilibrium price and quantity of apples sold will be which of the following?

- | | <u>PRICE</u> | <u>QUANTITY</u> |
|-----|--------------|-----------------|
| (A) | \$15 | 75 |
| (B) | \$10 | 50 |
| (C) | \$10 | 100 |
| (D) | \$ 5 | 75 |
| (E) | \$ 5 | 100 |

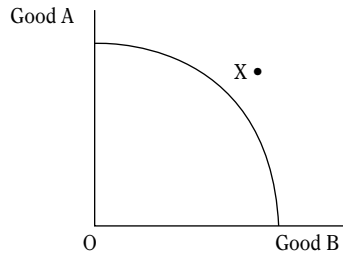
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

30. In psychology, the biosocial approach seeks to explain behavior in terms of

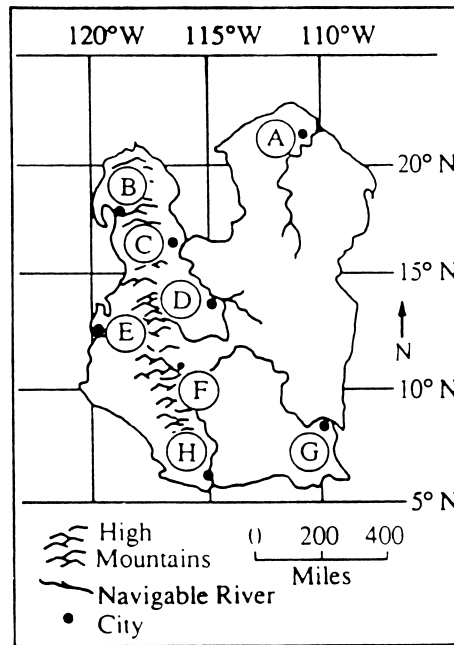
- (A) environmental influences
- (B) genetic factors
- (C) unconscious motivations
- (D) an integration of cultural and biological factors
- (E) genetic drifts within population groups

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

31. In the late twentieth century Islamic fundamentalism had the least influence in which of the following countries?
- (A) Algeria
 - (B) China
 - (C) Egypt
 - (D) India
 - (E) Indonesia
- Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
32. In which of the following types of societies do women typically have as much power as men?
- (A) Hunting-gathering
 - (B) Pastoral
 - (C) Horticultural
 - (D) Agricultural
 - (E) Industrial
- Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
33. Which of the following is true of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution?
- (A) It established presidential control over the budget.
 - (B) It created the Supreme Court.
 - (C) It declared all people to be equal.
 - (D) It outlined the basic pattern of church-state relations.
 - (E) It guaranteed citizens the right to bear arms.
- Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ
34. The Peloponnesian Wars were primarily the result of
- (A) Athenian imperialism
 - (B) Spartan militarism
 - (C) the invasion of Greece by Hammurabi's army
 - (D) the conquests of Alexander the Great
 - (E) the spread of Athenian democracy
- Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ Ⓔ



35. In the production-possibility curve for a closed economy illustrated above, X indicates a point at which
- (A) intended saving is greater than investment
 - (B) the economy cannot achieve its existing productive potential
 - (C) the factors of production are not fully employed
 - (D) the production level cannot be maintained in the long run
 - (E) income is unequally distributed to the factors of production
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
36. Which of the following philosophers asserted that all human beings possess the natural rights of life, liberty, and property?
- (A) Thomas Hobbes (B) John Locke (C) Thomas Aquinas
 - (D) Karl Marx (E) Socrates
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
37. Which of the following is NOT compatible with the traditional conception of bureaucracy?
- (A) Salaried remuneration
 - (B) Recruitment of personnel by examination
 - (C) A hierarchical structure
 - (D) A decentralization of authority
 - (E) A formal allocation of obligation and duties
- (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)



38. According to the map above, which of the following land formations would most likely be found near city A?

- (A) A plateau
- (B) A volcano
- (C) A delta
- (D) A peninsula
- (E) A mountain

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

39. On the basis of empirical evidence gathered during the Second World War, which of the following was most successful in motivating United States soldiers to perform well under overseas combat conditions?

- (A) Emphasizing to them that the civilian population is dependent on them
- (B) Developing their dedication to dominant political and ethical values
- (C) Instilling in the soldiers loyalty to national leaders
- (D) Developing in the soldiers a satisfactory self-image of their individual abilities
- (E) Emphasizing positive relationships among members of small combat units

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

40. Of the following, which first opened up lines of trade with East Africa and the upper Niger Valley?
- (A) Portuguese navigators sailing around Africa on their way to India
 - (B) English merchants seeking slaves for the American colonies
 - (C) Arab traders extending their trade routes to include both the Persian Gulf and northern Africa
 - (D) Spanish nobles seeking sources of gold in Africa
 - (E) French explorers crossing the Mediterranean and penetrating through the Sahara

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Study Resources

To prepare for the Social Sciences and History exam, you should consult several introductory college level textbooks because there are none that cover all the major topics on the exam. Visit your local college bookstore to determine which textbooks are used by the college for History, Sociology, Western Civilization, and other related courses. When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the “Knowledge and Skills Required” section on pages 1-4.

The materials suggested for preparing for other CLEP exams may also be helpful. Study resources for the Subject Examinations in American Government, History of the United States I and II, Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics, Introductory Sociology, and Western Civilization I and II are particularly relevant, and can be found in the Study Resources section for these exams. The Internet is another resource you could explore.

Answers to Sample Questions

Social Sciences and History

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 26. C |
| 2. E | 27. A |
| 3. A | 28. D |
| 4. B | 29. B |
| 5. D | 30. D |
| 6. C | 31. B |
| 7. A | 32. A |
| 8. E | 33. D |
| 9. A | 34. A |
| 10. B | 35. B |
| 11. C | 36. B |
| 12. D | 37. D |
| 13. D | 38. C |
| 14. D | 39. E |
| 15. C | 40. C |
| 16. D | |
| 17. B | |
| 18. C | |
| 19. C | |
| 20. D | |
| 21. A | |
| 22. C | |
| 23. E | |
| 24. C | |
| 25. E | |